

Acts and Resolutions

of the

General Council,

of the Chortan Nation.

PASSED AT ITS

REGULAR SESSION

1904.

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Acts of the Choctaw Nation

OCTOBER SESSION,

1904

BILL NO. 1.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF CHIEF MESSAGE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A CLERK.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in Regular Session Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Chairman of the Committee on Chief Message shall appoint a clerk of said committee, whose duty it shall be to make and keep a full record of the said committee.

SEC. 2. Be it further resolved, That the clerk of said Chief Message Committee shall receive for his services the sum of four dollars (\$4.00) per day; that the National Auditor shall issue his warrant for actual service, and the National Treasurer shall pay the same.

And this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by L. H. Perkins.

In affect by statue of limitation Oct. 13, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
P. C. C. N.

ATTEST:

J. W. CONSER,
Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 2.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE TO APPOINT A CLERK.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in Regular Session Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Chairman of the Finance Committe shall appoint a clerk for the said committee, whose duty it shall be to make and keep a full record of the work of said committee.

SEC. 2. Be it further resolved, That the Clerk of the said Finance Committee shall receive for his services five dollars (\$5.00) per day.

That the National Auditor shall issue his warrant for actual services and the Treasurer shall pay the same; and this resolution shall take effect and be in force from

and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by A. H. Reed.

In affect by statute of limitation this Oct. 13, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 3.

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON PETITIONS TO APPOINT A CLERK.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in Regular Session Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Chairman of the Committee on Petitions shall appoint a clerk for the said committee, whose duty it shall be to make and keep a full record of the work of said committee.

SEC. 2. Be it further resolved, That the Clerk of the said Petition Committee shall receive for his services four dollars (\$4.00) per day; that the National Auditor shall issue his warrant for actual services, and the Treasurer shall pay the same.

And this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by J. P. Thompson.

In affect by statute of limitation this Oct. 13, 1604.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 4.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING REPORT OF I. S. LOWERY, COLLECTOR FOR THE 1ST DISTRICT, C. N., FOR QUARTERS ENDING JUNE 30, 1904.

Your committee to whom was referred the report of I. S. Lowrey, district collector for the First District of the Choctaw Nation, have carefully examined the said reports in detail, and find that it covers the following quarters, to-wit:

Quarters ending September 30, 1903	-	-	\$1120	24
" " December 31, 1903	-	-	1937	28
" " March 31, 1904	-	-	1616	26
" " June 30, 1904	-	-	932	52
Grand total	-	-	\$5606	30
Less 10 per cent.	-	-	560	63
Due the Nation	-	-	\$5045	67

The total amount due the Nation is shown to be the sum of five thousand and forty-five dollars and sixty-seven cents (\$5045.67). Receipts from the National Treasurer shows that this amount has been paid in, and your committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

"Be it resolved, by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled, that the report of I. S. Lowery, collector for the First District of the Choctaw Nation, be, and the same is hereby accepted, as true and correct, and this resolution take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval."

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance

Committee.

Approved this the 14th day of Oct. 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO 5.

A RESOLUTION TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL OF CAPTAIN J. S. STANLEY.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled :

SECTION 1. That an appropriation of fifty (\$50) dollars, be, and the same is, hereby authorized and made, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred by the committee appointed to attend the funeral services of Captain J. S. Stanley; and the National Auditor be, and he is hereby empowered and directed to issue his warrant for that amount and the National Treasurer shall pay the same out of any other funds not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2. This resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by J. L. Ward.

Approved this the 25th day of Oct., 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 6.

WHEREAS, The sad intelligence of the death of our late comrade, co-worker and fellow citizen, Captain J. S. Stanley, has just been conveyed to us; and,

WHEREAS, While in life his energies were directed in the achievement of the best ends for the interest of his fellow citizens, and feeling deeply the loss we have sustained;

THEREFORE, Be it resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

That out of respect to the memory of our esteemed and honored friend, the Senate and House of Representatives, of the Choctaw Nation, now in general council assembled, adjourn at 5 p. m. this 20th day of October, and remain dissolved until Monday, October 24th, at 9 a. m., and that the Principal Chief be directed to appoint a committee, consisting of two Senators and one Representative, to attend the funeral of Captain J. S. Stanley, and;

Be it further resolved, That the said committee, so appointed, convey to the members of Captain Stanley's family, the deep condolence of the Choctaw Council, in this the hour of their sad bereavment.

Proposed by J. L. Ward.

Approved this the 20th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST: P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 7.

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF TO APPOINT A COMMISSION FOR THE ENROLLMENT OF NEW BORN CHOCTAWS, AND OTHER PURPOSES.

Whereas, By the terms of the supplementary agreement, the citizenship rolls of the Choctaw Nation were closed on September 25, 1902, and no children born of Choctaw Indian parentage thereafter could be enrolled; and

Whereas, Many Indian children have been borned since the above date and whose right to enrollment and participation in the division of tribal property entitles them to favorable consideration; and

Whereas, Certain delinquent Choctaws who have had a tribal status have failed to secure enrollment.

Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

SECTION 1. The Principal Chief is hereby authorized to appoint a commission, composed of three members, for the purpose of enrolling such children of Choctaw parentage as have been born since September 25, 1902, and children that may be born up to and including March 4, 1906.

SEC. 2. Said commission shall also be authorized to enroll such delinquent Choctaws as heretofore have

had a tribal status, and none other.

SEC. 3. The commission thus created shall be under the supervision of the Principal Chief, who shall have power to supervise the work of the Commission and revise the same from time to time, and in the exercise of this authority shall have power to canvass the list of names of the children and delinquent Choctaws received by the commission for enrollment.

SEC. 4. Be it further enacted that it shall be the duty of the Commission to investigate each case on its own merits, and shall take testimony only after it fully appears that the parents of such children have been duly enrolled, and as such their names appear upon the final rolls, as approved by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. Upon the completion of the enrollment of new born children and delinquent Choctaws, as herein before provided, said rolls shall be delivered to the Principal Chief, who is hereby authorized to procure such legislation by Congress as to secure the final enrollment of the aforesaid new born children and delinquent Choctaws.

SEC. 6. The Principal Chief shall designate one member of the Commission as Chairman, who shall keep the records, books and papers in his custody, and shall furnish blank applications and such other necessary forms to applicants for enrollment as the Commission may deem necessary.

SEC. 7. Be it further enacted that each Commissioner under this act shall receive \$1,800 per annum, as a salary, and the additional sum of \$1,000 is hereby appropriated for the purpose of procuring such stationery, books, and defraying such other necessary incidental

and contingent expenses of said Commission; and all payments shall be made quarterly upon the certificate of the Principal Chief to the Auditor, whose warrants the Treasurer shall pay out of any funds not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 8. Be it further enacted that the contingent fund of the Principal Chief, in addition to that now provided by law, is hereby increased sufficient to carry the purpose of this act into effect, and an appropriation therefor is hereby made, and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval, and all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Proposed by Daniel Webster, Chairman Choctaw Message Committee.

Approved this the 20th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N..

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

AMENDMENT.

That line 3 in Section 1, be amended after the words "Choctaw parentage" by adding the words and "the Choctaw Freedman parentage."

Amendment proposed by W. A. Shoney.

BILL NO. 8.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF HENRY L. SANGUIN,
DISTRICT COLLECTOR FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF THE
CHOCTAW NATION, COVERING FOUR QUARTERS, BE-
GINNING THE 1ST DAY OF JULY, 1903, AND ENDING
THE 30TH DAY OF JUNE, 1904,

Your committee to whom was referred the report of Henry L. Sanguin, District Collector for the Third District, Choctaw Nation, have carefully examined the same and find that it covers the four quarters, beginning the first day of July, 1903, and ending the 30th day of June, 1904. Our examination shows the total amount collected to be three thousand four hundred and ninety-seven dollars and thirty-four cents (\$3,497.34); less 10 per cent., three hundred and forty-nine dollars and seventy-three cents (\$349.73); due the Nation, three thousand one hundred and forty-seven dollars and sixty-one cents (\$3,147.61). Receipts from the National Treasurer and warrants handed in to the Committee, show that this amount has been paid into the National Treasurer,

Therefore, We, your committee, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

That the report of Henry L. Sanguin, District Collector for the Third District, be, and the same is hereby accepted, as true and correct, that this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 27th day of Oct. 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO 9.

A RESOLUTION OF ADJOURNMENT.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

That the present regular session of Council do adjourn Thursday, Nov. 3, 1904, at 10 o'clock a. m., and this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by Ed McDaniel.

Approved this, the 27th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 10.

A RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ADMINISTRATION OF HON.

GEORGE K. PRITCHARD, AS UNITED STATES MARSHAL FOR THE CENTRAL DISTRICT, INDIAN TERRITORY.

Whereas, The Indian, though slow of speech, is not

lacking in appreciation, and

Whereas, Honorable George K. Pritchard, the United States Marshal for the Central District, Indian Territory, has won the admiration and respect of the Choctaw people generally, through his vigorous enforcement of the law, without fear or favor; and

Whereas, The presentation of this view is so refreshing to the public generally, and the Indian in particular, that it needs to be chronicled.

Be it therefore resolved, by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

That the thanks of this body be extended to Honorable George K. Pritchard, United States Marshal, for his uniform enforcement of the law and his manifest determination to apply but one standard to those who violate its precepts.

Be it further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Honorable George K. Pritchard as an evidence of the appreciation of his service by the Choctaw people.

Be it further resolved That this resolution take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower.

Approved this the 27th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 11.

AN ACT TO RATIFY AND CONFIRM THE EMPLOYMENT OF MESSRS. M'CURTAN AND HILL, AS COUNSEL, IN GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION, BY THE PRINCIPAL CHIEF, AND PROVIDE COMPENSATION.

Whereas, By the following provisions of the act of Congress, approved April 28, 1904, the Arkansas guardianship and administration law was extended and put in force in the Indian Territory:

“All the laws of Arkansas, heretofore put in force in Indian Territory, are hereby continued and extended in their operation so as to embrace all persons and estates in said Territory, whether Indian, Freedman, or otherwise, and full and complete jurisdiction is hereby conferred on the District Courts in said Territory in the settlement of all estates of decedents, the guardianship of minors and incompetents, whether Indians, Freedman, or otherwise”; and

Whereas, Our people are unaccustomed to the procedure in Federal Courts, and many of them are without the means necessary to protect their interests before said tribunals and

Whereas, Unscrupulous parties, known as grafters, are taking advantage of the unfortunate condition of our people to defraud them of their property, and sometimes of the landed interests itself, under guise of guardianship or administration, procured by misrepresentation; now therefore,

Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

SECTION 1. That the action of the Principal Chief

in employing Messrs. McCurtain and Hill, attorneys in Choctaw guardianship and administration in the United States Courts be, and the same is hereby ratified and confirmed.

SEC. 2. That for the services performed and to be performed by the attorneys employed in guardianship and administration, said attorneys shall receive as compensation the sum of fifteen thousand (\$15,000) dollars; provided that said services shall continue to the end of the triabla government, namely: March 4, 1906, without additional compensation.

SEC. 3. That in addition to the compensation herein provided, the sum of five thousand (\$5,000) dollars, per annum, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be allowed to said attorneys as expenses in the prosecution of guardianship and administration cases in their charge.

SEC. 4. That said attorneys are hereby required and directed to make a full and complete report to the next Council of the service rendered and the expenses incurred in each and every case where they are attorneys of record, or in which they enter an appearance in behalf of the Indian parties in interest.

SEC. 5. That a sum sufficient to carry into effect the provisions of this act are hereby set aside and made available as additional contingent fund of the Principal Chief; that for the compensation and expenses herein provided, the National Auditor shall issue his warrant quarterly, upon the certificate of the Principal Chief, and the National Treasurer shall pay the same.

SEC. 6. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 27th day of Oct., 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 12.

AN ACT VALIDATING CERTAIN NATIONAL WARRANTS.

Whereas, It develops upon the examination of the National Auditor's report for the fiscal year 1904, that said Auditor did issue national warrants to the amount of two hundred and eighty (\$280) dollars upon certificates ordered by the various county clerks in the Choctaw Nation, for the expense of holding an election December 19, 1903; and,

Whereas, The National Treasurer paid said warrants upon the theory that they were regular and authorized by law; and,

Whereas, It may develop that there are a few certificates issued under similar circumstances and ought to be likewise paid.

Be it therefore enacted, by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

SECTION 1. That said warrants, and those hereafter issued upon certificates above mentioned be, and the same are hereby declared valid; that the National Auditor is hereby authorized to issue his warrants upon

presentation of the said certificates and the National Treasurer shall pay the same, out of any money not otherwise appropriated.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 27th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

AMENDMENT TO SECTION 1.

Insert on the last line after the word "appropriated":
"And that this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval."

BILL NO. 13.

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF A COMMISSION TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE CHICKASAWS, OR THEIR REPRESENTATIVES, A SETTLEMENT OF ALL EXISTING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE CHOCTAWS AND CHICKASAWS, AND AN ADJUSTMENT OF ALL OTHER MATTERS OF JOINT INTEREST BETWEEN THE TRIBES.

Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Principal Chief be, and he is

hereby authorized, to appoint a commission composed of three persons, of which he shall be a member and act as chairman, for the purpose of affecting a settlement upon the part of the Choctaw Nation of all existing matters between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and for the adjustment of all matters of joint interest between said tribes.

SEC. 2. That said Committee shall, upon its appointment, or as soon thereafter as is practicable, proceed to the consideration of the matters and things by this act committed to its charge, that a record of the final action, conclusions and recommendations of the joint commission shall be made and by this commission reported to the Principal Chief for transmission to the Council at its next succeeding session, either regular or extraordinary, for the Council's ratification or rejection, as to it may seem best for the interest of the Choctaw people.

SEC. 3. That the compensation for said commissioners shall be five (\$5.00) dollars per day when actually engaged in the service herein provided for, and three (\$3.00) dollars per day in lieu of subsistences, including transportation and other necessary and incidental expenses.

SEC. 4. That the sum of five hundred (\$500) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, shall be made available, and upon certificate of the Principal Chief the National Auditor shall issue his warrant and the National Treasurer shall pay the same. That the contingent fund of the Principal Chief is hereby sufficiently increased to carry into effect the provisions

of this act; and this act shall take effect from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by Daniel Webster, Chairman on Chief Message Committee.

Approved this the 27th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 14.

MEMORIAL REQUESTING CONTINUANCE OF PRESENT CHOC-TAW TOWNSITE COMMISSION UNTIL ITS WORK IS COMPLETED:

Whereas, The Choctaw Townsite Commission has received notice through the Honorable J. George Wright, U. S. Indian Inspector for the Indian Territory, that owing to lack of funds said Commission would be dissolved on or about November 1st, 1904, and;

Whereas, The work of the Commission is far from completion, and a suspension or discontinuance of the Commission at this time, would irreparably injure the interests of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations,

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in Regular Session Assembled:

That it is the sense of the Choctaw people that the townsite work should be pushed under the present Commission to a speedy settlement, until the work is com-

pleted in the appraisement and sale of the townsites in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and that we hereby respectfully invite the attention of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, to the utmost importance of an immediate completion of said work in order that the tribal affairs may be adjusted and a final settlement effected with the Government of the United States;

Be it further resolved, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honorable Secretary of the Interior, expressing this sentiment, and that this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by J. L. Ward.

Approved this, the 28th day of October, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 15.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF GEO. W. SCOTT,
NATIONAL TREASURER, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR, BEGIN-
NING OCT. 1ST, 1903, AND ENDING OCT. 1ST, 1904.

Your committee to whom was referred the report of Geo. W. Scott, National Treasurer, for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1st. 1903, and ending Oct. 1st, 1904, have

carefully examined said report and find that it shows receipts and disbursments as follows:

Total receipts,	- - -	\$120,700.14
Total disbursments,	- - -	<u>94,844.92</u>
Balance on hand Oct. 1, 1904,	- -	\$26,855.22

We, Therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

That the annual report of George W. Scott, National Treasurer, for the fiscal year, beginning Oct. 1, 1903, and ending Oct. 1, 1904, be and the same is hereby accepted as true and correct; and that this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 16.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF GEORGE W. SCOTT,
NATIONAL TREASURER RELATIVE TO HIS CONTINGENT
FUND FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED OCTOBER 1, 1904.

We, your Finance Committee, To whom was refer-

red the report of Geo. W. Scott, National Treasurer, relative to his contingent fund for the fiscal year ended Oct. 1, 1904, of four hundred (\$400) dollars of that office, beg leave to state, that we have carefully examined said report, and find the same to be a true and correct statement of the expenditure of said fund. Therefore we recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

That the report of Geo. W. Scott, National Treasurer, relative to the expenditure of the contingent fund of said office, be and the same is hereby accepted as true and correct, and this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,
Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 17.

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF ONE THOUSAND (\$1,000) DOLLARS, OR SO MUCH THEREOF AS MAY BE NECESSARY, TO DEFRAY THE EXPENSES OF LITIGATION, PROVIDED FOR THE CONTRACT WITH MESSRS. HILL AND BRIZZOLARA, COVERING THE SUIT OF THE CHOCTAW NATION AGAINST THE MISSOURI, KANSAS & TEXAS RAILWAY COMPANY.

Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be and the same is hereby appropriated for the purpose of defraying the expenses to be incurred by Messrs. Hill and Brizzolara, as attorneys of the Choctaw Nation in its suit against the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway Company, as defined in the terms of the contract entered into between the Choctaw Nation, through its Principal Chief, and said Hill and Brizzolara; and the National Auditor is hereby directed, upon the certificates of the Principal Chief, to issue his warrants for that purpose, not exceeding in the aggregate the sum of one thousand (\$1,000) dollars, and the National Treasurer is hereby authorized to pay the same out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated; and the contingent fund of the Principal Chief is hereby sufficiently increased to carry into effect the provisions of this act.

SEC. 2. That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval, and that all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed..

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of Nov., 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 18.

AN ACT FOR THE PAYMENT OF REGULAR EXPENSES NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF THE CHOCTAW NATION.

We, your committee, to whom has been referred the itemized accounts of Mansfield, McMurry & Cornish, for expenses incurred and legal services rendered, under the direction of the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, in protecting its interest in the various matters that have arisen from Oct. 1, 1903, to September 30, 1904, have had the same under consideration, and after a careful investigation thereof, find the same to be true and correct. We have also had under consideration the matter of the necessity for making further provisions for the defense of Mississippi Choctaw citizenship cases and for handling patents. We therefore recommend the passage of the following bill:

Whereas, Regular and necessary expenses have been incurred and legal services have been rendered by Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, under the direction of the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, in protecting its interests, in various matters that have arisen from Oct. 1, 1903, to Sept. 30, 1904, and it is just and proper that provisions be made for the payment thereof, and also for the protection of the Choctaw Nation in various like matters that may hereafter arise from time to time; and,

Whereas, It is deemed of the highest importance that provision be made for the further defense of Mississippi Choctaw citizenship cases, pending before the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes and the De-

partment of the Interior until the same shall have been finally disposed of, and also that facilities be provided for the thorough and systematic conduct of the matter of the execution of patents and the delivery of the same to allottees in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations;

Therefore, Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation be, and he is hereby authorized, to direct the payment of such expenses as may have been incurred, not to exceed the sum of five thousand two hundred and eighty-two dollars and forty-six cents (\$5,282.46), and such legal service as may have been rendered, not to exceed the sum of five thousand two hundred and fifty dollars (\$5,250) by Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, under his direction, in protecting the interest of the Choctaw Nation in various matters that have arisen from October 1, 1903, to September 30, 1904; payment therefore to be made in the following manner: Itemized accounts thereof shall be presented to the Principal Chief and upon his approval the National Auditor shall issue his warrant therefore, and the National Treasurer shall pay the same.

SEC. 2. The Principal Chief is further authorized to direct that such expenses be incurred, and such legal services rendered as in his judgment may be necessary to adequately protect the interests of the Choctaw Nation in the various matters that may hereafter arise from time to time. He is also authorized to direct the payment of such expenses as may be necessary to adequately defend Mississippi Choctaw citizenship cases, pending before the Commission to the Five Civilized

Tribes and the Department of the Interior; and also to handle in a thorough and systematic manner the matter of execution of patents and the delivery of the same to allottees in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Itemized accounts, of such expenses as may be so incurred, shall be presented to the Principal Chief, and upon his approval thereof, warrants shall be issued in payment thereof, and the National Treasurer shall pay the same.

SEC. 3. That the contingent fund of the Principal Chief, in addition to that now provided by law, is hereby increased sufficient to carry into effect the purposes of this act, and an appropriation therefor is hereby made; and that this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval, and all acts or parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
P. C. C. N.

ATTEST:

J. W. CONSER,
Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 19.

AN ACT AMENDING THE LAW RELATIVE TO COUNTY AND PROBATE COURTS IN THE CHOCTAW NATION, AND REDUCING THE AMOUNT OF FUNDS HELD BY COUNTY TREASURERS FROM FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS TO FIFTY DOLLARS.

Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That hereafter the County Treasurer of each county in the Choctaw Nation, is hereby required to make full report to the National Treasurer of all funds received; and the act requiring each County Treasurer to retain five hundred (\$500) dollars in said County Treasury, is so amended as to reduce said amount to fifty (\$50) dollars.

SEC. 2. That all acts and parts of acts in conflict herewith are hereby repealed, and that this amended act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by Daniel Webster, Chairman of Chief Message Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 20.

We, your committee, to whom was referred the petition of Annie T. Arnote, (nee McCullie,) for compensation for services rendered the Choctaw Nation in teaching twenty (20) Choctaw children, under contract, at Antlers, I. T., for the period of five (5) months during the scholastic year of 1892 to 1893, would respectfully say that we have carefully examined said petition and

find from oral and written testimony that the said Annie T. Arnote, (nee McCullic,) is entitled to the sum of one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars, and therefore recommend the passage of the following act:

Be it enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation assembled:

SECTION 1. That the sum of one hundred and fifty (\$150) dollars be and the same is hereby appropriated out of any money in the National Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to pay Mrs. Annie T. Arnote, (nee McCullic,) of Antlers, I. T., for services rendered in teaching Choctaw children during the scholastic year of 1892 to 1893:

SEC. 2. Be it further enacted: That the National Auditor is hereby authorized to issue his warrant and the National Treasurer to pay the same; and this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 21.RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF PETER J. HUDSON,
NATIONAL AUDITOR.

We, your Finance Committee, to whom was referred the report of Peter J. Hudson, National Auditor, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1904, have carefully examined same and find it true and correct, and therefore recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled.

SECTION 1. That the report of Peter J. Hudson, National Auditor, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1904, be, and the same is hereby accepted as true and correct; and that this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 22.

COUNCIL HOUSE,
TUSHKAHOMA, IND. TER., }
October 31, 1904. }

To THEODORE ROOSEVELT, PRESIDENT OF THE
UNITED STATES, WASHINGTON, D. C.

We, the people of the Choctaw Nation, through our representatives in National Council assembled, appeal to you with the full assurance that your personal familiarity with the conditions in the west will enable you to reach a just conclusion touching our welfare. It is appropriate in this condition to say, that we of the west do not hesitate to affirm that you, as President, more thoroughly represent western ideas than any former chief executive. We feel that we have in you a friend, and for that reason we speak with candor.

The people of the Choctaw Nation in their treaties with the United States government have ever contended for, and caused to be embodied in those agreements, a promise that no portions of their lands would ever be included in any state or territory without the full consent of the Five Civilized Tribes. This demand for, and promise of home rule, has been the strongest inducement held out to us as a people to gain our acquiescence and participation in the treaties made with the United States government. As a people, we have kept our faith with the United States government; have never violated the treaties entered into with it, and have lived in the belief that the undertakings of the United States with our people would be carried out in spirit and to the letter. Now as the time approaches for the consummation of the

sacred pledge made to us, we are confronted with the disquieting fact that Congress is endeavoring to legislate to the detriment of the Five Civilized Tribes, and in contradiction of the solemn obligation imposed upon the United States government, under its treaties. Nor, have we as a people been silent. When the agitation was first inaugurated tending to violate the treaties made with us we voiced our opposition. We have addressed memorials to the United States Congress asking in the name of justice, in the name of honor, in the name of fair dealing, not to permit the passage of a law that would deprive us of our rights under the various solemn treaties made with the United States government, in whose honesty of purpose and integrity of motive we have ever believed. Our memorials have gone unheeded, and in the light of the confidence we have in you, our President, our cognizance of your interest in the welfare of your Indian citizens; your familiarity with our customs, and sympathy with our conditions, we come to you and request your intervention and assistance in bringing about the fulfillment of the promise by which the United States government secured the friendship of the Five Civilized Tribes; the consummation of the hope that has buoyed us; the light that has lead our footsteps along the path that must end in SEPERATE STATEHOOD.

There is now pending in the Senate of the United States a measure commonly known as the "Hamilton Bill," which has already passed the Lower House. This legislation has for its object the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian Territory as one state. We desire now to emphatically reiterate our protest against the

final enactment of this law. In the face of the pledge that has been made us; not once, but repeatedly, as is evidenced by the following extract from the various treaties made by the United States government with the Five Civilized Tribes:

“Whereas, It being the anxious desire of the Government of the United States to secure to the Cherokee Nation Indians a permanent home, and which shall under the most solemn guarantee of the United States, be and remain forever theirs, a home extended around it the lines, or placed over it, the jurisdiction of a Territory or a State, nor be pressed upon by the extension in any way of any of the limits of any existing Territory or State.” (Treaty of 1828.)

“No Territory or State shall ever have the right to pass laws for the government of the Choctaw Nation of red men and their descendants; and no part of the land granted them shall ever be embraced in any Territory or State.” (Treaty of 1830.)

“The United States hereby covenant and agree that the lands ceded to the Cherokee Nation in the foregoing article shall in no future time, WITHOUT THEIR CONSENT, be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any State or Territory.” (Treaty of 1835.)

“The United States do hereby solemnly agree and bind themselves that no State or Territory shall ever pass laws for the government of the Creek and Siminole tribes of Indians, and that no portion of either of the tracts of country defined in the first and second articles of this agreement shall ever be embraced or included within or annexed to any Territory or State, nor shall either, or any part of either, ever be erected into a ter-

ritory without the full and free consent of the legislative authority of the tribe owning the same." (Treaty of 1856.)

"This stipulation is made in the belief that the tribal government so modified will prove so satisfactory that there will be no need or desire for further change until the lands now occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes shall, in the opinion of Congress, be prepared for admission as a State to the Union.", (Atoka agreement, ratified 1898.)

We are unalterably, determinedly, and for all time opposed to the amalgamation of Indian Territory and Oklahoma. We feel, and it is this thought that prompts us to address you, that your familiarity with the language of the treaties solemnly executed between the United States government and the Five Civilized Tribes, will not countenance a prostitution of the sacred obligations of the United States. And the unfair attempt to pass a law that will abrogate the clause written in the agreements of the United States with the Five Civilized Tribes, that the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes would forever remain intact, would never be embraced in any State or Territory without the full consent of the Five Civilized Tribes, is a vicious effort to debase the honor of the United States government, and at the same time, deprive the Five Civilized tribes of the fruits of the pledge that moved them to execute their treaties with the United States government.

Knowing your intense honesty, your hatred of shams, and believing that your interest in our welfare is so deep rooted that you will thwart any measure

aimed at our people, we appeal to you direct, asking you to take such steps as in your judgment will insure the carrying out of the pledge so sacredly and solemnly made to us, that the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes would never be included in any state or territory without the full consent of the Five Civilized Tribes. We are unalterably opposed to merging our lands with those of Oklahoma; we respectfully petition that justice be shown us, and that when Indian Territory is admitted to statehood that it will be allowed to enter the sisterhood of States, not as a part of Oklahoma, but as a sovereign commonwealth, as was promised in the treaties made with us as a people; and as we have ever hoped for since first our forefathers affixed their signatures to the first treaty with the United States government.

We are fitted for statehood; we, together with our non-citizen brothers, are qualified for government of our own state; the population, area and resources of the Indian Territory are far in advance of many states of the Union, as will quickly appear from the following statistics:

In area the Indian Territory is twenty-nine times as large as Rhode Island, sixteen times as large as Delaware, six times as large as Connecticut, four times as large as New Jersey, almost four times as large as Massachusetts, three times as large as New Hampshire, three times as large as Vermont, three times as large as Maryland. It has six thousand square miles more than West Virginia, fifteen thousand square miles more than Maine, twelve hundred square miles more than South Carolina, is practically the size of Indiana, and is four-fifths the size of either Ohio, Kentucky, Virginia or Ten-

nessee. The Choctaw Nation alone is larger than either Rhode Island, Delaware, Connecticut, New Jersey, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont or Maryland.

According to the census of 1900 the population of the Indian Territory was 392,060, which exceeded the population of seven States and five Territories, namely: Nine times that of Nevada, six times that of Alaska, four times that of Wyoming, three times that of Arizona, twice that of Hawaii, twice that of Delaware, twice that of Idaho, and twice that of New Mexico; it had a population of 148,000 more than Montana, 113,000 more than the District of Columbia, 115,000 more than Utah, and 72,000 more than North Dakota.

The population in 1900 was greater than that of Nevada, Idaho, Wyoming and Alaska combined. Since the last census emigration to the Indian Territory has been enormous, and it is safe to say that the present population exceeds that of either Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington, Colorado, Florida, or New Hampshire.

In natural resources the Indian Territory is not unsurpassed by any state in the Union. Oil and natural gas has been developed in each of the Five Nations, but on the account of holdings of lands in common have not been operated. The same conditions obtains with reference to lead, zinc, iron and other minerals. The coal and asphalt deposits of the Indian Territory are superior to those of any State in the southwest. The coal industry is but in its infancy, and yet the annual report of the United States mine inspector for the year ended June 30, 1903, will show that during that year more than three million tons of coal were mined in the

Choctaw Nation alone.

In each of the other nations are extensive fields of coal, which are being rapidly developed and operated. In the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations approximately 440,000 acres of coal and asphalt lands have been reserved from allotment. It has the most productive soil, four-fifths of which may be profitably farmed. Two-fifths have never been touched by the plow. Wheat, oats, corn and cotton, and most any product of the soil may be grown here.

In conclusion we turn to you, Mr. President, feeling that you will understand us better than Congress. As already stated, you know the west, you know our hopes and our ambitions, and we appeal again to your sense of justice and fair dealing, asking that you lend such assistance as in your power to frustrate the passage of the so-called "Hamilton Bill," and in its place recommend legislation that will insure to us the consummation of the sacred promise of the United States government; the harvesting of the hopes we have long cherished, fed on the belief that what has been pledged to us by the United States government would be fulfilled; give us but separate statehood for Indian Territory.

Proposed by Wm. H. Harrison.

Approved this the 1st day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 23.AN ACT ABOLISHING THE OFFICE OF BOARD OF HEALTH AND
REPEALING THE LAW IN RELATION THERETO.Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw
Nation Assembled.SECTION 1. That the office of Board of Health of
the Choctaw Nation is hereby abolished, and the law
creating said office is hereby repealed.SEC. 2. That all acts and parts of acts in conflict
herewith are hereby repealed, and this act shall take
effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by Ed. McDaniel.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
P. C. C. N.

ATTEST:

J. W. CONSER,
Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 24.Whereas, The incursion of sportsmen, hunters and
trappers from surrounding states have well nigh de-
stroyed the game and fish, once abounded in Choctaw
Nation; and,Whereas, No general law on this subject is possible,
except through an act of Congress, which will prohibit
the ruthless destruction of fish and game within the
boundaries aforesaid.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Congress of the United States be petitioned to pass some appropriate measure looking to the protection of game and fish in the Choctaw Nation.

SEC. 2. That the Choctaw delegate to Washington be authorized to present this resolution to the proper Congressional Committee and urge the adoption of some measure to that end.

SEC. 3. That this resolution take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by Wm H. Harrison.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,
Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 25.

RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE REPORT OF G. W. DUKES, GREEN M'CURTAIN AND GEORGE W. SCOTT, UNDER THE ACT OF CONGRESS, ENTITLED "AN ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF CERTAIN INDIGENT CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW INDIANS IN THE INDIAN TERRITORY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."—APPROVED APRIL 29, 1902.

Whereas, Under an act of Congress on April 29, 1902, twenty thousand (\$20,000) dollars were set aside, of the Choctaw and Chickasaw fund, that had been

placed to their credit in the United States Treasury, derived from the sale of town lots, under the act approved June 28, 1898, for the purpose of relieving certain indigent Choctaw and Chickasaws in the Indian Territory; and,

Whereas, Gilbert W. Dukes, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation; George W. Scott, Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation, and Green McCurtain, ex-Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, were constituted a commission with authority to investigate and determine what Choctaw citizens are destitute and in absolute need of help, and are further authorized to supply said destitute Choctaws with the food necessary for their maintenance; and,

Whereas, The said Gilbert W. Dukes, George W. Scott and Green McCurtain, as a Choctaw commission, have submitted a full report, showing that said funds have been distributed in accordance with the act of Congress aforesaid, and that their report herein is found to be full, true and correct.

Be it Therefore Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled.

SECTION 1. That the report of Gilbert W. Dukes, Principal Chief; George W. Scott, Treasurer of Choctaw Nation, and Green McCurtain, ex-Principal Chief of Choctaw Nation, comprising the Choctaw commission created under "Act of Congress," entitled "An act for the relief of certain indigent Choctaws and Chickasaw Indians in the Indian Territory, and for other purposes," (Approved April 29, 1902), be and the same is hereby accepted as true and correct; and that this resolution

shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 2d day of November 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 26.

We, your Committee on Finance, to whom was referred a national warrant, issued to Silverman and Zimmerman, numbered 36F, for the sum of fifty-six dollars and thirty-one cents (\$56.31) and dated September 6, 1900; after a careful investigation do find that the said warrant is null and void, for the reason that in the issuance of the same the National Auditor incorporated the sum of six dollars and thirty cents, Cedar county scrip, wrongfully; we, therefore, recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the warrant heretofore issued for the sum of fifty-six dollars and thirty cents (\$56.30), be declared null and void, and the Auditor is hereby required to issue in its place another warrant for the sum of fifty dollars (\$50), payable to Silverman and Zimmer-

man, and that the National Treasurer shall pay the same out of any moneys in the treasury, not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 2. That this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAN,

ATTEST: P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 27.

Be it Enacted by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

That the following sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the National Treasury, to defray the regular and necessary expenses of the government for the fiscal year commencing October 1, 1904, and ended September 30, 1905:

Principal Chief's salary	- - - - -	\$2,000 00
National Secretary's salary	- - - - -	600 00
National Auditor's salary	- - - - -	600 00
National Treasurer's salary	- - - - -	600 00
National Attorney's salary	- - - - -	400 00
Private Secretary's salary	- - - - -	1,000 00
Trustee coal and asphalt under Atoka agreem't		4,000 00

Nine national light horsemen	-	-	-	\$1,400	00
Three Supreme Judges	-	-	-	1,200	00
Three Circuit Judges	-	-	-	1,500	00
Seventeen County Judges	-	-	-	4,250	00
Three District Chiefs	-	-	-	150	00
Three District Attorneys	-	-	-	1,500	00
Election Judges and Clerks	-	-	-	490	00
Grand and Petit Jurors	-	-	-	3,525	00
Witnesses at Circuit Court	-	-	-	1,500	00
Contingent Fund for Principal Chief	-			6,162	00
" " National Auditor	-			600	00
" " Treasurer	-			400	00
" " Secretary	-			450	00
Sheriff and deputies attending Circuit Court				675	00
Publication fund, National Secretary	-	-		350	00
Clerk Supreme Court	-	-	-	100	00
Three Circuit Clerks	-	-	-	900	00
Seventeen County Clerks	-	-	-	1,700	00
" " Sheriffs	-	-	-	5,100	00
Thirty-four Deputy Sheriffs	-	-	-	3,400	00
Seventeen County Rangers	-	-	-	850	00
Caring for Capital Building	-	-	-	75	00
Delegate to Washington, D. C., salary	-	-		2,500	00
" " expenses	-			1,000	00
Supreme Judge's mileage	-	-	-	110	00
Act approved by the Principal Chief Oct. 19, 1899, and by the President of United States June 10, 1900	-	-	-	5,000	00
Act passed and approved by the Principal Chief Nov. 1, 1899, and approved by Presi- dent McKinley December 8, 1899,	-	-		2,500	00
Expenses to carry on law suit of M. K. & T. R.					

R. Co. vs. Choctaw Nation	- - - - -	\$1,000 00
Expense of attending funeral of Capt. J. S.		
Stanley	- - - - -	50 00
Light horsemen attending Council	- - - - -	987 00
Expenses of General Council, October 1904,		8,000 00

That this act shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by James Bower, Chairman of Finance Committee.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 28.

RESOLUTION THANKING HONORABLE GREEN M'CURTAIN, PRINCIPAL CHIEF.

Whereas, Human nature seems prone to speak kindly only of the dead; and,

Whereas, It seems appropriate to pay tribute to the living, in the person of our present chief executive, Honorable Green McCurtain; and,

Whereas, His long and honorable career in the public service of the Choctaw Nation entitles him to the gratitude of his people.

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That Hon. Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, be given a vote of thanks by Council for his untiring energy, his sincere zeal and never flagging purpose to secure to his people their property rights and an equal division thereof;

Be it further resolved, That Hon. Green McCurtain be presented with an engrossed copy of these resolutions as a manifestation of our esteem;

Be it further resolved, That these resolutions take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Proposed by Frank Folsom.

Approved this the 2d day of November 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN

ATTEST:

P. C. C. N.

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 29.

To the Hon. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Whereas, Under the terms of the supplementary agreement, all citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nation who owned improvements situated on lands segregated as coal lands, were to have the same appraised

by a board of appraisers, under rules and regulations prescribed by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior; and,

Whereas, Said appraisers have refused to estimate and appraise cleared land on said segregated coal lands, giving as their reason therefor, that said appraisement of cleared land would be contrary to instructions; and,

Whereas, The failure of said appraisers to take into consideration the cost incurred by the citizen in clearing, breaking and putting in state of cultivation said land, and in many instances having reaped no benefits whatever from its use; and,

Whereas, The continued refusal and failure of the appraisers to consider the character of improvement will work untold hardship on the citizens who are largely dependent upon remuneration from this source, therefore;

Be it Resolved by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation Assembled:

SECTION 1. That the Honorable Secretary of the Interior be memorialized to instruct the appraisers to estimate the number of acres of cleared land owned by citizens on land segregated for coal purposes, and to allow said citizens reasonable compensation therefor; be it further resolved;

SEC. 2. That the delegate to Washington be authorized to present this memorial and urge favorable action on same, and that this resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval.

Proposed by Daniel Webster, Chairman of Chief Message Committee.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

P. C. C. N.

ATTEST:

J. W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

BILL NO. 30.

To Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.

We, your memorialists, most respectfully through the accredited delegate of the Choctaw Nation at Washington, D. C., that the enactment of recent legislation of Congress touching probate matters, has brought many evils upon us instead of the intended good designed by Congress.

Under the law that now obtains, each parent is required to give bond for the management and care of his children's estate. This construction of the law gives a class of adventurers, known as "grafters," a wide field to put many nefarious schemes in operation, which are calculated to work a great injury to the Choctaw people, generally, and the ignorant full blood Indians in particular. The outrage practiced here by the "grafters" under the guise of law, is sickening in detail. The perjury and subordination of perjury that abounds would fill a volume.

One of the favorite methods of separating the Indian from his surplus lands, is for the "grafter" to induce

the Indian to go to a border town, fill him up on mean whiskey, put a pint or two in his grip, and then rush him back to the Indian Territory, where he is promptly arrested. The "grafter" is usually admitted to the bar of some Territory court and passes as an attorney. He then appears and offers bond for his incarcerated victim, and by this method completes his nefarious scheme. But the most profitable and less expensive method of securing the Indian's property, is by insisting that under the law they must apply to the United States Courts by petition for the appointment as guardian of their own children. By this insistence they have induced a large number of Indians to relinquish their rights in favor of the so-called "grafter." These practices by this class of adventurers have been widespread in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, and unless some relief is offered these people by Congress the evils here enumerated will grow to immense proportions and lead to further outrages in the name of law.

We, therefore most respectfully request that in your message to Congress, that you point out the evil herein complained of, and suggest some appropriate remedy.

The authorized delegate of the Choctaw Nation has been directed to present this memorial, and to respectfully present further details of the deplorable situation here as a result of the legislation which Congress has thought appropriate to the conditions existing here.

And it is in the sense of the Choctaw Council, in general session assembled, that the delegate to Washington be instructed to present this memorial to the President, in person, and that this memorial shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and ap-

proval by the Principal Chief.

Proposed by Silas Bacon.

Approved this the 2d day of November, 1904.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

ATTEST: P. C. C. N.

JOE W. CONSER,

Recording Secretary.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY, That the above and foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of the Original Acts and Resolutions of the Choctaw General Council, passed at its Regular Session for the year 1904, the originals whereof are now on file in the office of the National Secretary of said Nation.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I Edward H. Wilson, National Secretary of said Nation, have hereunto affixed my official signature and the seal of the Choctaw Nation. Done this the 21st day of May, in the year one thousand nine hundred and five.

EDWARD H. WILSON,

[SEAL.] National Sec., Choctaw Nation.

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